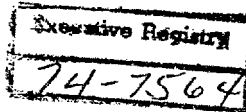


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31 OCT 1974

The Honorable Roy L. Ash, Director  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, D. C. 20503

Dear Roy:

In my letter of 21 October 1974 which accompanied the CIA budget request for the Transition Quarter and its projections for 1977-1980, I noted the importance to me of a project known as SAFE. This project is in direct response to the need for significant initiatives in the analytical area and envisions a new and nearly symbiotic relation between the analyst, his data and the computer. I have just completed a review of the SAFE pilot project in which analysts participated and gave their reactions to it. Their enthusiasm and the experience gained in the last year encourage me to move ahead as rapidly as possible, beginning full-time efforts on SAFE a full year in advance of original projections. To do this will require an increase of \$7 million in the original CIA Fiscal Year 1976 budget request. The estimates for SAFE in 1977 and onward will be reduced accordingly.

My main reason for requesting this amendment is my determination to improve intelligence production as directed in the Presidential letters of 5 November 1971 and 9 October 1974. SAFE represents a most important means not only of improving the intelligence product but of keeping abreast of the complexities of the years ahead. I believe it is directly responsive to your letter of 22 July 1974 asking that \$10 million be included in our Fiscal Year 1976 budget for improvements in our analytical work.

In addition, the General Services Administration has advised us that the Standard Level Users Charge (P.L. 92-313) for the space we occupy will be \$20.2 million in Fiscal Year 1976, \$5.3 million more than we included in our budget request. This increase is based on an adjustment in the price for space and is not caused by any significant change in the amount of space we require. I have no alternative, therefore, but to

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25X1 request a further increase of \$5.3 million in my original Fiscal Year 1976 budget request making the total now required [ ] instead of [ ] as originally estimated. 25X1

We would be pleased to provide whatever additional information you may desire and, of course, will present a detailed account of present status and future expectations to the OMB examiner who is at this moment reviewing our Fiscal Year 1976 budget submission.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby  
Director

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